

To:  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Re: **Case Reference: 323780 – Ballinlee Wind Farm**

Applicant: Ballinlee Green Energy Ltd

From:

Audrey Cummins V35 ET81

Athlacca, Co. Limerick

Date: 14.11.2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Audrey Cummins, and I have the recently purchased a 135-year-old stone cottage in Crean Athlacca. I am currently in the planning stage and will shortly begin to restore the cottage under the Limerick City and County Council Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant Scheme, which supports the renewal of derelict historic buildings and encourages people to bring derelict homes back to life.

I bought this cottage because my family has deep roots here. We have lived, worked, and been part of this parish for generations. This area is not just a place on a map it is home, community, and heritage.

I feel it is inconsistent and counterintuitive that one arm of policy encourages rural restoration and residential reoccupation, while another may approve a large scale industrial development in such close proximity that risks making these beautifully restored homes less viable or desirable as permanent homes.

This development directly affects me as my cottage is 1685.5 metres from the nearest proposed turbine and two more within a 2.5kms. This proximity is exceptionally close given the sheer scale and nature of the proposed infrastructure.

I understand the need for renewable energy, and I support it in principle, but I don't believe that this development, in this location and at this scale, is appropriate. I have serious concerns about this specific proposal due to its proximity to existing homes, schools, agricultural activity, wildlife habitats, and heritage areas.

The planning documents describe the area as remote and sparsely populated. That description is simply not accurate.

Within a short distance are the villages and communities of:

- Croom
- Bruff
- Dromin–Athlacca
- Meanus

- Ballyagran
- The Lough Gur area

We have:

- Schools
- Preschools
- Sports clubs
- Working farms
- Local shops
- Playgrounds
- Parish communities

This is not an abandoned landscape. it is a vibrant living rural community full of families, children, working farms, sports organisations, educational facilities, wildlife habitats, community services, and people who work outside everyday. The proposal fails to meaningfully acknowledge this lived reality.

This proposal includes 17 wind turbines, each up to 160 metres tall with very large rotor diameters. These would be among the tallest turbines in Ireland. Their scale and proximity are disproportionate and would significantly dominate the Golden Vale landscape, which is known for its beauty, agricultural identity and wildlife, which would inevitably impact negatively on rural character, landscape, and daily life in the area. These structures are far larger than typical rural building form, and represent a dramatic industrial insertion into the landscape, not a proportional rural intervention.

Construction of 17 turbines will require significant road works, heavy transport, excavation and concrete foundations. This would cause prolonged disruption and increased safety risks on local rural roads. This is not green this is the complete opposite. This is mass destruction of green.

Because my home is so close, I'm genuinely concerned about:

- Noise
- Infrasound and vibration
- Shadow flicker
- Light pollution from safety beacons
- Sleep disruption
- Stress/wellbeing and health impacts
- wildlife impacts
- property value and long-term planning uncertainty

This is particularly worrying because the area is so quiet at night — any industrial noise would be noticeable.

This part of Limerick is home to horses, cattle and dairy herds, as well as swans, birds of prey, bats and other wildlife. The character of the land is primarily agricultural and equine, not industrial.

That identity matters, not just economically, but culturally.

It is difficult to reconcile this situation, I do think it's important to strongly point out a contradiction once again:

- On one hand, the Council is supporting me (and others) through the Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant to restore rural homes and help revitalise our villages.
- On the other hand, this development may significantly affect the comfort, enjoyment and value of such restored homes.
- Please see link: [Vacant Property Refurbishment Grant | Limerick.ie](https://www.limerick.ie/vacant-property-refurbishment-grant)

It feels inconsistent to encourage rural living and heritage restoration while permitting an industrial development of this scale right beside it. This undermines confidence in long-term rural planning policy and investment.

Restoring a derelict home is a major financial and personal commitment. The uncertainty created by having turbines so close raises real concerns about:

- Long-term value
- Mortgageability
- Resale
- And future planning permission

That is a significant worry for me and others investing our life savings and working so hard to remain in our own community.

I am not objecting because I am against renewable energy. I am objecting because I believe this particular development, at this scale and at this distance from homes, schools, farms and villages, is not the right fit for this landscape or its people.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that An Coimisiun Pleanála refuses permission for this development and this application be refused.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Yours sincerely,  
Audrey Cummins  
V35 ET81  
Athlacca, Co. Limerick

